

October 24, 2011

Dear Parent(s),

Thank you to all of the parents that have attended or will be attending conferences. The communication and partnership between students, teachers and parents is essential to reach the greatest level of success for all of us. It is our pleasure to share all of the things your child is working on and give suggestions for how you can help your child be more successful at school and at home. Even more detailed information about your child's progress will be given in the **first quarter report cards which will be available through Family Access on November 14th.**

Also related to student performance is the administration of the **Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE)** which will be given the first week of November. In sixth grade we test in the areas of math and reading. It is really important that your child be in school on the dates of testing otherwise they will be pulled from classes at a later time to make up the tests. **We will be testing Tuesday(11/1) , Wednesday (11/2), and Thursday (11/3) from 10:15-11:15 a.m in Reading and 1:45-2:45 p.m. in Math.** Please make sure your child has pencils and a calculator and most importantly please encourage them to eat breakfast and get a good night sleep. We all do better when we are well rested and have a full stomach!

This past week we were able to attend an all school assembly on bullying. October is **Bully Awareness Month**. It was an excellent presentation and very touching. The presenter helped kids to see that their actions can be hurtful to others even when they think they are "just kidding" and don't mean to actually hurt someone. He gave helpful tips and strategies for students to deal with bullying and helped everyone to see that you cannot judge others without getting to know them and once you get to know them you most likely won't do things to hurt them.

In November we will have another all school assembly to recognize the contributions of our veterans on **Veteran's Day**. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the assembly by offering their own form of thank you through an essay, poem, song, skit, video or any other creative presentation. If you know of a veteran in your family or community you can also invite them to be part of our assembly and a recognition lunch to follow the assembly. Information was sent home with your child about this assembly and how to invite someone you know.

Here are the subject area updates:

Reading: We are in the middle of the unit on character development. We will be looking at how authors build characters into a story through their actions and thoughts. We will also be looking at the types of characters and how readers develop theories about characters that change as they read. Each child should continue reading at home for 30 minutes and now they are being asked to respond to their reading in their composition books as well.

Writing: We are finishing our unit on realistic fiction. All classes are currently typing and editing to get final copies turned in by the end of first quarter (Nov.4). Your child should be asking you to complete an adult edit for this paper. Our next writing unit will be a personal essay which will focus around a thesis statement.

Math: We just started Unit 3 this week. This unit is an introduction to variables, graphing, and formulas. We are beginning with the basic elements of algebra and will continue these concepts throughout the year. We continue to flexibly group students based on pretest scores so we can best meet their needs through differentiation of instruction and assignments.

We have made the switch – if your child was doing Social Studies at the beginning of the year they are now in Science and vice versa!

Science: We started our unit on Earth In Space this week. We have been talking about scale models and just how big the earth, moon, and sun are and how far apart they are. Ask your child how many classrooms it would take to make a space large enough for the sun when the earth is 12 cm in diameter – they should be able to tell you. Next we will learn about the tilt of the earth and what causes seasons.

Social Studies: Mr. Ryan's class has just finished up their maps test and are headed to the "Create a Civilization" project. The students will be working in class to build their projects around the 5 themes of geography. This is an awesome project and one I know students will use their creativity to make it great!

Fun Stuff:

Mrs. Charles and Mrs. Hall recently worked an evening at the Haunted High selling tickets because Mrs. Hall is too chicken to enter! Mrs. Charles actually went through the Haunted High this past weekend with another friend and said it wasn't all that scary when you worked in the building so many years and knew where you were going. She was impressed with the skeletons in the auditorium.

Mr. Ryan will be traveling up north this next weekend for a little get away and some much needed rest after surviving football and his first quarter of teaching sixth grade. However, he cannot wait to start coaching wrestling when it begins in November. (This is one sport 6th graders can participate in so if your child has any interest please encourage them to talk to Mr. Ryan.)

Mrs. Hall will be traveling to San Antonio, Texas with her husband this week to watch her daughter graduate from basic training in the Air Force.

Mr. Fredricks continues to impress (we think that is the correct word) all of us with his odd knowledge and sense of humor. The students have started coming to us with odd knowledge questions they want us to pose to the rest of the class. When asked what he will be doing over the long weekend he responded that he will be busy cleaning up the skeletons and gravestones he attempted to put in his front yard that all ended up in his neighborhood after the strong winds this past weekend!

Dates to Remember

October 25	Early Release at 11:55 for Parent Teacher Conferences
October 26-28	No School
November 2-4	WKCE testing (10:15-11:15 a.m., 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)
November 4	Last Day of 1 st Quarter/Halloween Dance 6-8 p.m.
November 11	Report Cards can be viewed on Family Access
November 23-25	Thanksgiving Break

Note from Ms. Gitter, Student Council Advisor:

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 1st 5/6 Dance is approaching quickly and we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, dance activities, and clean-up. This is a great way to get involved with SLI. The dance is November 4th. We will be looking for volunteers between 5:30 and 9:00 (shifts available you DO NOT have to work the whole time). If you are interested please email Ms. Gitter at Colleen.Gitter@mail.oasd.k12.wi.us. Thanks for your support!